

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 29, 32 and 33. Claims 30 and 31 were previously canceled. New dependent claims 34-38 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Claims 29 and 32-38 are pending in the subject application, and all of such claims stand rejected. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims 29 and 32-38 be reconsidered and passed to issuance in view of this response.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have made appropriate corrections to claims 32 and 33.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been overcome.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure stating that the specification does not define the continuing data, as required.

Applicants have made appropriate corrections to the specification. Support for Applicants' amendment to the specification can be found, for example, with reference to "Example 1" (page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 7) which discloses Applicants' second slurry as including hydrogen peroxide (i.e. oxidizer), BTA (i.e. buffering agent) and Duponol SP (i.e. sulfated fatty acid surfactant).

Therefore, Applicants believe that the objections to the specification have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 29 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mravic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,840); and claims 29 and 32-33 as being unpatentable over either Kaufman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,416 B1) and Kaufman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,063,306).

Applicants have amended independent claim 29 to specify that Applicants' second slurry consists of a peroxide agent, a copper oxidation inhibitor, a surfactant and an abrasive. Claims 32-38 are dependent upon independent claim 29, as amended. Support for Applicants' amendment can be found, for example, with reference to "Example 1" (page 10, line 24 to page 11, line 7).

Mravic et al. disclose a second slurry of which a required ingredient is an acid such as carboxylic acid or an inorganic acid such as nitric acid (see column 7, line 62 - column 8, line 3). The required acid is in addition to an oxidizer, surfactant, corrosion inhibitor or abrasive that may be added to form the second slurry of Mravic et al. (see column 8, lines 4-10). Applicants' amendment to claim 29 now render the present invention as a specific composition which is not taught or suggested by Mravic et al. Mravic et al. disclose a second slurry which requires an acid which is not recited in Applicants' claim 29, as amended.

Likewise, both Kaufman et al. ('416) and Kaufman et al. ('306) disclose a second slurry of which a required ingredient is a "complexing agent" such as acetic acid ('416: column 8, lines 16-26; '306: column 8, lines 10-20). The required "complexing agent" is in addition to an oxidizer, surfactant, corrosion inhibitor or abrasive that may be added to form the second slurry of either Kaufman et al. ('416) or Kaufman et al. ('306). For example, referring to Kaufman et al. ('416) (column 7, line 36 - column 9, line 19), Kaufman et al. disclose that the second slurry includes at least one oxidizer such as hydrogen peroxide; the second slurry may include a film forming agent such as BTA; and, the second slurry may include a surfactant such as TRITON DF-16. In addition to each of the ingredients listed above which are or may be included in the second slurry of Kaufman et al., Kaufman et al. also discloses that a "complexing agent" such as acetic acid is included in the second slurry (i.e. the "complexing agent" is not an optional

ingredient). As discussed above, Applicants' amendment to claim 29 now render the present invention as a specific composition which is not taught or suggested by either Kaufman et al. ('416) or Kaufman et al. ('306). Both Kaufman et al. ('416) and Kaufman et al ('306) disclose a second slurry which requires an ingredient (i.e. complexing agent) which is not recited in Applicants' claim 29, as amended.

Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

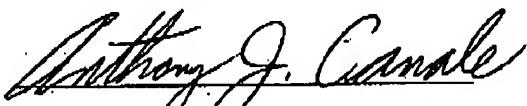
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Cote et al.,

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